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S/1997/550
16 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

(for the period from 18 January to 16 July 1997)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of Security Council resolution 1095 (1997) of 28 January 1997, by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further period of six months, until 31 July 1997. It covers developments since the previous report, dated 20 January 1997 (S/1997/42).

II. SITUATION IN THE AREA OF OPERATION

2. During the past six months, hostilities continued between the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and its local Lebanese auxiliary, the de facto forces (DFF), on the one hand, and armed elements who have proclaimed their resistance against the Israeli occupation on the other. The level of hostilities was higher than in the previous period.

3. UNIFIL recorded 154 operations by armed elements against IDF/DFF (6 in the second half of January, 35 in February, 9 in March, 18 in April, 31 in May, 36 in June and 19 in the first half of July). There were also reports of more than 210 operations north of the Litani River. The vast majority of the attacks were carried out by the Islamic Resistance, the military wing of the Shiite Muslim Hizbullah organization. A few of them were carried out by the Shiite movement Amal. Three attacks were attributed to Palestinian groups, although UNIFIL could not confirm this. In their attacks against IDF/DFF, armed elements used small arms, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, anti-tank missiles, road-side bombs and rockets. Armed elements more frequently employed long-range mortar fire in their attacks against IDF/DFF. During the period under review, armed elements fired more than 1,400 mortar rounds, rockets and anti-tank missiles.

4. IDF/DFF, in response to attacks or in operations they initiated, employed artillery, mortars, tanks, helicopter gunships and fixed-wing aircraft. On more occasions than in previous periods, IDF/DFF conducted pre-emptive artillery

bombardments, usually to cover troop movements and patrols. IDF increased long-range patrols beyond its forward positions. In a new development, IDF/DFF also used road-side bombs outside the Israeli-controlled area (ICA). UNIFIL recorded more than 12,000 artillery, mortar and tank rounds fired by IDF/DFF during the reporting period, an increase from the previous period's count. Air raids by IDF continued at a high level throughout the period. Except for an attack in the Nepalese battalion sector on 9 February and one in the Ghanaian battalion sector on 1 June, all air raids were carried out north of the Litani River.

5. As before, the Israeli navy patrolled the Lebanese territorial waters in the south and continued to impose restrictions on the local fishermen.

6. Firing into populated areas was maintained at a relatively low level, although there were a number of serious incidents. In the Force's area of operation, the most serious incident occurred on 12 July, when a civilian at Adshit Al Qusayr was killed by an anti-personnel flechette tank round fired by IDF/DFF. Other serious incidents were reported from north of the Litani River. On 18 February, a civilian was killed and two others injured by IDF/DFF shelling in Habbush and another village nearby. On 6 July, three civilians in villages in the Iqlim al-Touffah region were injured by artillery rounds fired by IDF/DFF. On 14 July, two civilians were killed and another wounded by IDF/DFF shelling near Saida. On 15 July, two civilians at Demichkiye were injured by shrapnel from rockets fired by armed elements. On 25 April and 3, 6 and 15 July, mortar rounds and rockets fired by armed elements at IDF/DFF positions along Lebanon's border with Israel landed inside Israeli territory.

7. Civilian casualties from road-side bombs increased. In the UNIFIL area of operation, a civilian was killed by a road-side bomb with Hebrew markings near Frun on 20 February. On 5 May, four civilians were injured by a road-side bomb detonated by armed elements near El Qlaiaa. Other casualties were reported from north of the Litani, notably on 6 May, when two civilians were killed and two others were wounded by road-side bombs planted by IDF/DFF near Nabatiyeh. There were also reports that one civilian each was killed by the explosion of road-side bombs on 4 June in the southernmost part of the Bekaa Valley and on 18 June near Jezzine.

8. UNIFIL continued its efforts to limit the conflict and to protect the inhabitants from the fighting. Through its network of checkpoints and observation posts and an active programme of patrolling as well as continuous contacts with the parties, the Force did its best to prevent its area of deployment from being used for hostile activities and to defuse situations that could lead to escalation. It also deployed, as necessary, to provide a measure of protection to the villages and to farmers working in the fields.

9. As reported in July 1996 (S/1996/575, para. 23), UNIFIL had obtained a commitment from IDF that it would respect a safety zone around UNIFIL positions and received assurances from the Islamic Resistance that they would not conduct operations in the vicinity of UNIFIL positions. During the reporting period, both sides continued to show restraint in this regard. Nevertheless, a total of 68 firings at or close to UNIFIL positions and personnel were recorded (40 by IDF/DFF, 15 by armed elements and 13 by unidentified elements). UNIFIL promptly protested all such instances to the authorities concerned.

10. In accordance with an understanding reached several years ago, IDF observed certain limitations on its activities in the Norwegian battalion sector. During the period, there was some friction between IDF and UNIFIL over IDF's access to that sector. On 27 April, IDF placed restrictions on United Nations traffic entering the Norwegian battalion sector, following the battalion's prevention of IDF conducting meetings with local villagers in the sector. UNIFIL protested the incident. On 24 and 25 May, IDF, again reacting to the battalion's denial of IDF's request for meetings owing to inadequate notice time, closed the border crossings in Metullah and Rosh Haniqra, as well as an IDF/DFF checkpoint on the coastal road near Naqoura. UNIFIL strongly protested the restriction of its freedom of movement. The matter was resolved after negotiations.

11. On 28 and 29 May, elements of the Islamic Resistance, on three occasions, stopped UNIFIL traffic, harassing the personnel involved. They were reacting to reports that IDF had acquired United Nations vehicles. UNIFIL vigorously protested the harassment and obtained the assurance that it would end. On investigation, it was found that a number of old vehicles, which were in a state of complete disrepair, had been sold to an Israeli buyer by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. These vehicles had been transported to ICA with their United Nations markings still intact. They have since been painted over and the procedures for the disposal of old vehicles have been tightened. It is worth mentioning in this connection that UNIFIL has repeatedly expressed its concern to IDF over the latter's use of white four-wheel-drive vehicles similar to UNIFIL's, although without United Nations markings.

12. The monitoring group set up under the understanding of 26 April 1996 held 11 meetings at UNIFIL headquarters to consider complaints by Israel and Lebanon. UNIFIL provided facilities for the meetings as well as transport to the members of the group.

13. Within ICA, Israel continued to maintain a civil administration and security service. The infrastructure in ICA (road system, electricity, water supply, public buildings) continued to be improved, primarily owing to aid provided by the Government of Lebanon. However, ICA remained economically dependent on Israel, where more than 2,000 of the inhabitants go to work every day.

14. IDF/DFF carried out sporadic search operations throughout ICA and made several arrests. Reports of forced recruitment to DFF decreased. All movement between ICA and other parts of Lebanon remained under the control of IDF/DFF and its security apparatus. A night curfew is still being imposed on the village of Rshaf.

15. UNIFIL continued to extend assistance to the civilian population in the form of medical care, casualty evacuation, harvest patrols, clothes, blankets, food, engineering works and the distribution of educational material and equipment to poorer schools. In addition, water projects, equipment or services for schools and orphanages, and supplies to social services and needy people were provided from resources made available by troop-contributing countries. UNIFIL medical centres and mobile teams provided care to an average of 4,300 civilian patients per month and a field dental programme treated approximately 150 cases per month. UNIFIL also assisted the Government of Lebanon in

transporting and distributing supplies to villages in ICA, when these villages faced economic difficulties owing to restrictions imposed by IDF/DFF. Throughout the period, UNIFIL cooperated closely on humanitarian matters with the Lebanese authorities, United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other organizations and agencies operating in Lebanon. As in the past, UNIFIL continued the disposal of unexploded ordnance in its area of operation. In all, 147 controlled explosions were carried out.

16. On 6 March, a Palestinian who had been accommodated at UNIFIL headquarters since 18 April 1995, after being deported to Lebanon by the Israeli authorities, was allowed to leave for Jordan via Israel, as a result of continuous contacts between UNIFIL and IDF.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

17. As of July 1997, UNIFIL comprised 4,488 troops, from Fiji (596), Finland (490), France (247), Ghana (651), Ireland (613), Italy (46), Nepal (597), Norway (616) and Poland (632). The Estonian company deployed for a six-month period as an integral part of the Norwegian battalion completed its tour of duty and left in May 1997. UNIFIL was assisted in the performance of its tasks by 52 military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. In addition, UNIFIL employed 445 civilian staff, of whom 125 were recruited internationally and 320 locally. The deployment of UNIFIL is shown on the annexed map. Major-General Stanislaw F. Wozniak continued as Force Commander.

18. I regret to report the death of a French soldier and two Polish soldiers. On 21 June, six soldiers of the Irish battalion were wounded, one of them badly, by a mine explosión during clearing mines near Bayt Yahun. Since the establishment of UNIFIL, 211 members of the Force have died: 76 as a result of firing or bomb explosions, 84 in accidents and 51 from other causes. A total of 331 have been wounded by firing or by mine or bomb explosions.

19. The problem of the rents owed by the Government of Lebanon to the owners of the land and premises used by UNIFIL has still not been resolved. Not all owners have received payment and there is continuing controversy over the lists of owners prepared by the Lebanese authorities. Some owners have requested that their properties be vacated. For operational, practical and budgetary reasons, only a few of these requests can be met.

20. UNIFIL maintained close contacts with the Lebanese authorities on matters of mutual concern. Those authorities provided valuable assistance in connection with the rotation of troops and logistic activities in Beirut. The Lebanese army was helpful in defusing confrontations with armed elements. It also provided accommodation for some UNIFIL contingents while on leave in Lebanon. The Force continued to cooperate with the Lebanese Internal Security Forces on matters pertaining to the maintenance of law and order.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

21. By its resolution 51/233 of 13 June 1997, the General Assembly appropriated to the Special Account for UNIFIL an amount of $124,969,700 gross for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, based on an average strength of 4,513 troops and a continuation of its existing responsibilities. The assessment of the appropriation, which is equivalent to $10,414,142 gross per month, is subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 July 1997.

22. As of 30 June 1997, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIFIL amounted to $175,918,593. The total unpaid assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $2.5 billion.

V. OBSERVATIONS

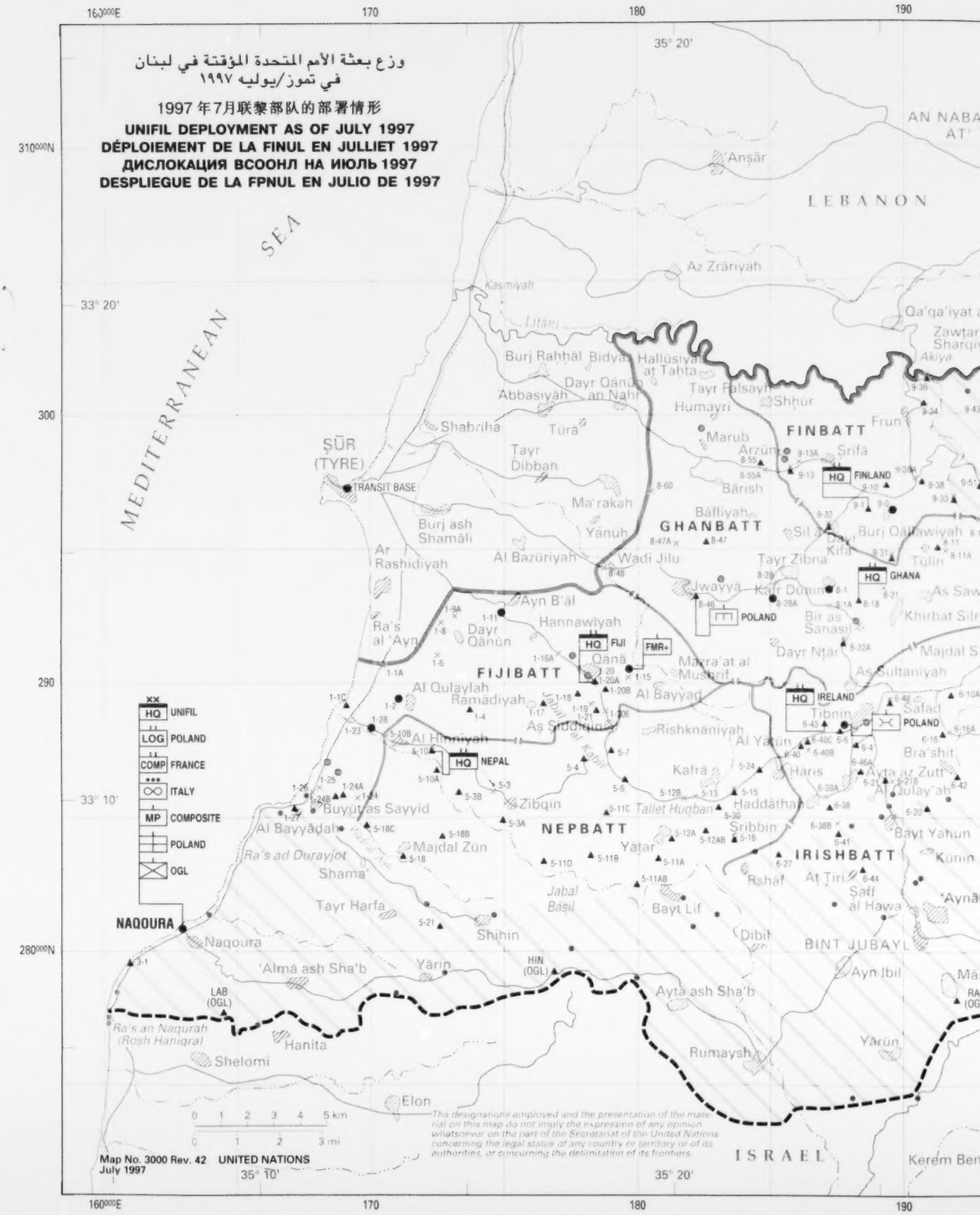
23. The level of hostilities in southern Lebanon rose somewhat during the past six months and civilians were again targeted or put at risk. The situation remained volatile and continues to give cause for serious concern.

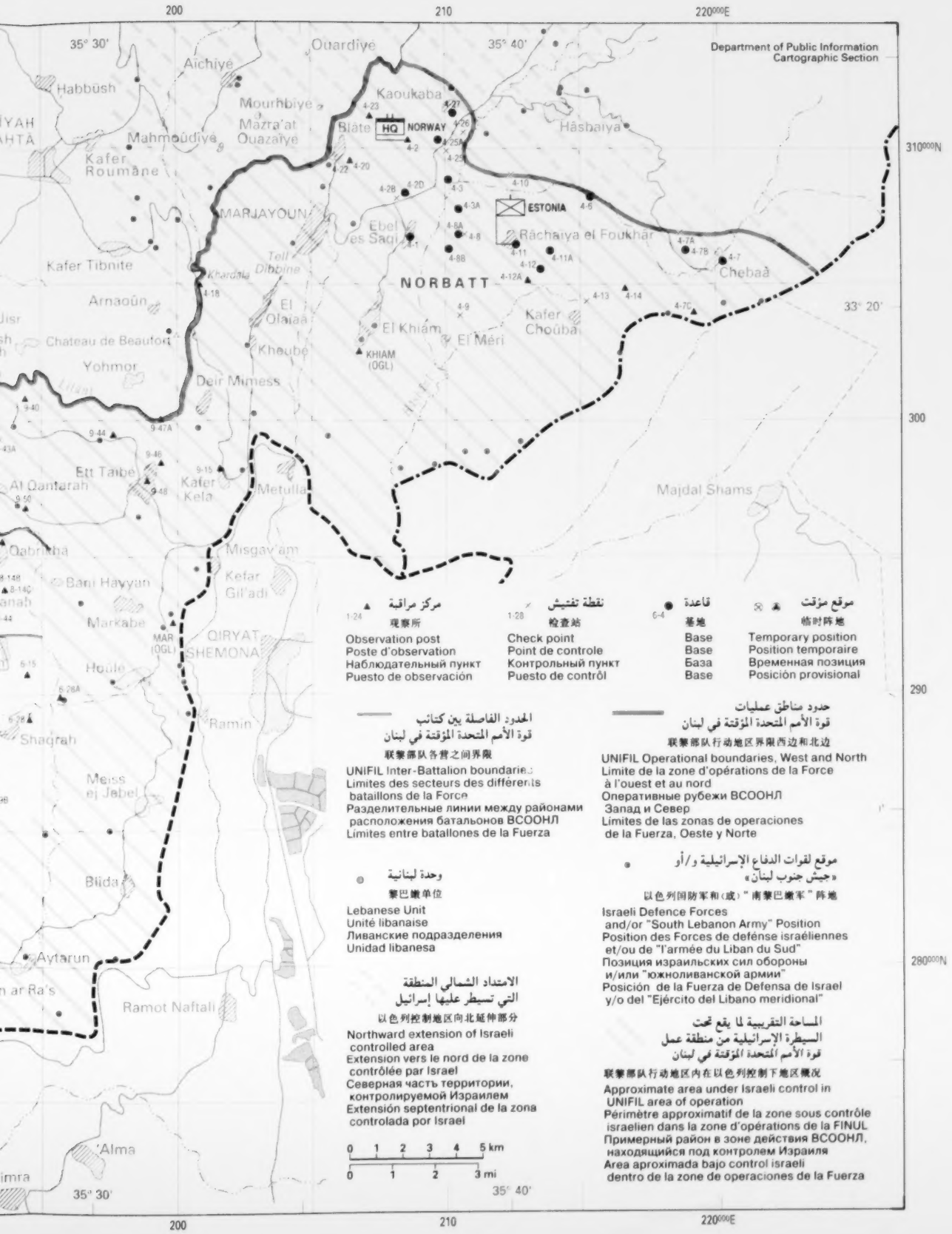
24. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations described his Government's position on the situation in a letter he addressed to me on 10 July 1997 (S/1997/534). By the same letter, he conveyed his Government's request that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNIFIL for a further period of six months.

25. Although UNIFIL continued to be prevented from implementing its mandate, its contribution to stability and the protection it is able to afford the population of the area remain important. I therefore recommend that the Security Council accede to the request of the Government of Lebanon and extend the mandate of UNIFIL for another period of six months, until 31 January 1998.

26. I must again draw attention to the serious shortfall in the funding of the Force. At present, unpaid assessments amount to some $176 million. This represents money owed to the Member States contributing the troops that make up the Force. I appeal to all Member States to pay their assessments promptly and in full and to clear all remaining arrears. I should also like to express my gratitude to the Governments contributing troops to the Force, in particular those of developing countries, for their understanding and patience in these difficult circumstances.

27. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major-General Stanislaw F. Wozniak, the Force Commander, and to the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have carried out their difficult and often dangerous task. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.


وزع بعثة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
في تموز/يوليه ١٩٩٧
1997年7月联黎部队的部署情形
UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AS OF JULY 1997
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FINUL EN JULLIET 1997
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ВСООНЛ НА ИЮЛЬ 1997
DESPLIEGUE DE LA FPNUL EN JULIO DE 1997
160000E
170
180
190
310000N
300
290
280000N
35° 20'
33° 20'
33° 10'
35° 10'
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
LEBANON
ISRAEL
AN NABA AT'
Anṣār
Az Zrārīyah
Kasmiyah
Litani
Burj Rahhāl
Bidyā
Hallūsiyah at Tahta
Dayr Qānūn an Nahr
Abbasiyah
Tayr Falsayh
Humayri
Shhūr
Shabriha
Tūra
Tayr Dibbah
ṢŪR (TYRE)
TRANSIT BASE
Ma'rakah
Burj ash Shamālī
Ar Rashidiyah
Al Bazūriyah
Yanūh
Wadi Jilu
Marub
Arzūn
Srifa
Bārish
Bāfliyah
Tayr Zibna
Jwayya
Kafr Dūnin
Bir as Sanasil
Dayr Ntar
Ayn B'al
Hannawīyah
Dayr Qānūn
Ra's al 'Ayn
Qānā
Mayrra'at al Mushrif
Al Qulaylah
Ramādiyah
Al Bayyad
Rishknānīyah
Al Yatūn
Tibnīn
Safad
Al Hnnīyah
Kafrā
Haris
Ayta az Zutt
Al Qulay'ah
Zibqīn
Tallet Hughan
Haddāthah
Sribbin
Bayt Yahun
Buyūt as Sayyid
Al Bayyādah
Ra's ad Durayjot
Majdal Zūn
Shamā'
Yatar
Rshaf
At Tīri
Ṣafī al Hawa
Jabal Bāsil
Bayt Lif
Tayr Harfa
Shihin
Dibil
BINT JUBAYL
Naqoura
'Almā ash Sha'b
Yārīn
Ayn Ibil
Ayta ash Sha'b
Ra's an Naqurah (Rosh Haniqra)
Hanita
Rumaysh
Yārūn
Shelomi
Elon
Kerem Ben
FINBATT
GHANBATT
FIJIBATT
NEPBATT
IRISHBATT
HQ FINLAND
HQ GHANA
HQ FIJI
HQ IRELAND
HQ NEPAL
POLAND
FMR+
HIN (OGL)
LAB (OGL)
NAQOURA
HQ UNIFIL
LOG POLAND
COMP FRANCE
ITALY
MP COMPOSITE
POLAND
OGL
0 1 2 3 4 5 km
0 1 2 3 mi
The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.
Map No. 3000 Rev. 42 UNITED NATIONS
July 1997



مركز مراقبة
观察所
Observation post
Poste d'observation
Наблюдательный пункт
Puesto de observación

نقطة تفتيش
检查站
Check point
Point de controle
Контрольный пункт
Puesto de contrôl

قاعدة
基地
Base
Base
База
Base

موقع مؤقت
临时阵地
Temporary position
Position temporaire
Временная позиция
Posición provisional

الحدود الفاصلة بين كتائب
قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队各营之间界限
UNIFIL Inter-Battalion boundaries
Limites des secteurs des différents bataillons de la Force
Разделительные линии между районами расположения батальонов ВСООНЛ
Límites entre batallones de la Fuerza

حدود مناطق عمليات
قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队行动地区界限西边和北边
UNIFIL Operational boundaries, West and North
Limite de la zone d'opérations de la Force à l'ouest et au nord
Оперативные рубежи ВСООНЛ Запад и Север
Límites de las zonas de operaciones de la Fuerza, Oeste y Norte

وحدة لبنانية
黎巴嫩单位
Lebanese Unit
Unité libanaise
Ливанские подразделения
Unidad libanesa

موقع لقوات الدفاع الإسرائيلية و/أو «جيش جنوب لبنان»
以色列国防军和(或)"南黎巴嫩军"阵地
Israeli Defence Forces and/or "South Lebanon Army" Position
Position des Forces de défense israéliennes et/ou de "l'armée du Liban du Sud"
Позиция израильских сил обороны и/или "южноливанской армии"
Posición de la Fuerza de Defensa de Israel y/o del "Ejército del Líbano meridional"

الامتداد الشمالي المنطقة التي تسيطر عليها إسرائيل
以色列控制地区向北延伸部分
Northward extension of Israeli controlled area
Extension vers le nord de la zone contrôlée par Israel
Северная часть территории, контролируемой Израилем
Extensión septentrional de la zona controlada por Israel

المساحة التقريبية لما يقع تحت السيطرة الإسرائيلية من منطقة عمل قوة الأمم المتحدة المؤقتة في لبنان
联黎部队行动地区内在以色列控制下地区概况
Approximate area under Israeli control in UNIFIL area of operation
Périmètre approximatif de la zone sous contrôle israelien dans la zone d'opérations de la FINUL
Примерный район в зоне действия ВСООНЛ, находящийся под контролем Израиля
Area aproximada bajo control israeli dentro de la zone de operaciones de la Fuerza

0 1 2 3 4 5 km
0 1 2 3 mi

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

(For the period from 18 January to 16 July 1997)

Corrigendum

Page 2, paragraph 6, line 10

For On 15 July, two civilians at Demichkiye were injured read On 15 July, a civilian at Demichkiye was injured

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97-19870 (E) 170797

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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16 July 1997

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LETTER DATED 16 JULY 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey to you the attached letter, dated 16 July 1997, which I have received from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations. Attached to the letter is the ninth fortnightly report on the multinational protection force for Albania requested by the Security Council in its resolutions 1101 (1997) of 28 March 1997 and 1114 (1997) of 19 June 1997.

I should appreciate your bringing the text of the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-19732 (E) 160797

/...

Annex

Letter dated 16 July 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit the ninth report on the multinational protection force for Albania (see appendix). The report is submitted pursuant to the requirement set out in paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1114 (1997) of 19 June 1997, in which the Council requested the Member States participating in the force to provide periodic reports, at least every two weeks, through the Secretary-General, to the Council. The eighth such report was conveyed to you on 2 July 1997 (see S/1997/513).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the ninth report circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Giulio TERZI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Appendix

Ninth report to the Security Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 March 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1101 (1997), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the offer made by certain Member States to establish a temporary and limited multinational protection force to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance.

2. On 19 June 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1114 (1997), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the readiness of the countries contributing to the multinational protection force to maintain their military contingents in Albania for a limited time. In paragraph 3 of the resolution the Council welcomed the intention of the countries contributing to the force to continue to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance. It also took note of all the elements contained in the sixth report on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania, concerning, inter alia, the electoral monitoring mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It decided that the operation would be limited to a period of 45 days from 28 June 1997.

3. In both resolutions, the Security Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide periodic reports to the Council through the Secretary-General, at least every two weeks. The first eight reports on the operation of the force were provided on 9 and 25 April, 9 and 23 May, 6, 13 and 26 June and 2 July 1997.

4. This is the ninth such report to the Security Council on the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania and the third report submitted to the Council pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 1114 (1997). The report refers to the events up to 15 July, and in particular to the role of the force in helping to ensure a safe and secure environment for the OSCE monitoring teams during the second round of the electoral operations on 6 July 1997 and on the further electoral operations on 13 July.

II. MULTINATIONAL PROTECTION FORCE

A. Political guidance

5. The Steering Committee, consisting of the political directors of the 11 troop-contributing countries and the Commander of the operation, continues to follow the overall situation on the ground and the full compliance of the

activities of the force with the Security Council mandate. It had meetings on 4, 9, 14, 23 and 30 April, 6, 13, 14 and 22 May, 4, 10, 20, 25 and 29 June and 2 and 15 July. On 6 and 13 July, the Steering Committee secretariat remained in permanent contact with the force headquarters from the opening of the polling stations to the conclusion of the voting operations in Albania.

6. Representatives of the following international organizations attended the meetings of the Steering Committee as observers, as appropriate: United Nations, OSCE, European Union, Western European Union and International Committee of the Red Cross.

B. Cooperation with the Albanian authorities and with international organizations

7. The force has helped to create a secure environment during the electoral process, in particular for the OSCE/ODIHR missions, in the framework of the Security Council mandate.

8. A special office was set up in Tirana at the force headquarters to follow the developments of the electoral operations in the country, in cooperation with the Albanian authorities and OSCE.

9. Although reduced in number, humanitarian missions continued in Albania during the electoral period. They resumed after the elections. The force facilitated the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance by such missions and helped to create a secure environment in accordance with the mandate provided under resolution 1114 (1997).

C. Force deployment

10. During the whole electoral process the force maintained its extended deployment virtually over the entire country, intensifying reconnaissance, patrolling and escort missions.

11. During the second round of the electoral operations, the overall deployment of the force was as follows: Austria, 111; Belgium, 14; Denmark, 57; France, 937; Greece, 766; Italy, 3,755; Portugal, one aircraft crew; Romania, 398; Slovenia, 21; Spain, 336; Turkey, 757.

12. On 6 July, the force granted protection to 58 OSCE monitoring teams in 34 electoral zones. The second round of the elections was held in 32 of these zones, while in 2 zones the first round was held, since it had not been held in the previous Sunday. The OSCE teams were deployed as follows: 2 in Berat, 3 in Diber, 15 in Durres-Kavaje-Lehza, 2 in Elbasan, 2 in Korca, 13 in Shkoder, 17 in Tirana and Kruje, 4 in Vlorë.

13. On 13 July, the force granted protection to five OSCE monitoring teams in the two electoral zones where the second round of the elections took place. Four OSCE teams were deployed in Puke and one in Fier.

III. CONCLUSIONS

14. The second round of the voting on 6 July passed relatively smoothly. Some incidents occurred without the direct involvement of the force. In some cases, however, the voting had to be suspended temporarily. At one polling station in the Shkoder area, one electoral officer was killed and two were injured when a gunman opened fire. Previously, on 4 July, the force had moved to protect OSCE monitoring teams at the headquarters of the Central Electoral Commission in Tirana when gunshots were fired around the building, leaving one dead and several wounded.

15. The OSCE Special Coordinator for the Albanian Parliamentary elections, Mrs. Catherine Lalumiére; the head of the Council of Europe parliamentary delegation, Sir Russell Johnston; and the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Javier Ruperez, stated in their final report that, in their judgement, these elections can be deemed acceptable, given the prevailing circumstances, and that they should constitute the foundation for a strong democratic system.

16. The final voting operations on 13 July took place without any incident.

17. Such positive results should be credited also to the security framework provided by the multinational protection force.

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S/1997/552
16 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 16 JULY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 July 1997 addressed to Your Excellency by His Excellency Mr. İsmail Cem, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tuluy TANÇ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

97-19773 (E) 160797

Annex

Letter dated 14 July 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letters dated 11 December 1996 and 8 and 21 January, 12 and 25 February, 15 April, 6, 15, 18, 21, 25, 26 and 31 May and 3 and 12 June 1997 signed by the Foreign Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister or the Acting Foreign Minister of the Republic of Iraq addressed to Your Excellency and circulated as Security Council documents S/1996/1033, S/1996/1041, S/1997/24, S/1997/72, S/1997/129, S/1997/158, S/1997/318, S/1997/354, S/1997/376, S/1997/379, S/1997/391, S/1997/393, S/1997/399, S/1997/420, S/1997/436 and S/1997/461 respectively, I should like to bring to your attention the following:

The principles and objectives of Turkish foreign policy towards Iraq have been consistent and fully in line with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council from the outset of the Gulf crisis.

This policy is based, first and foremost, on respect for the independence, sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. In view of the circumstances prevailing in northern Iraq, Turkey has also tried to contribute, to the maximum extent possible, to peace, stability and security in that area. This has been essential not only for Turkey's own security interests but also for the well-being of the inhabitants of northern Iraq.

The Government of Turkey fails to understand, therefore, the motives which may have guided the Government of Iraq to make the unfounded allegations contained in the above-mentioned letters. Turkey not only has made public the objectives and the limited scope and duration of its recent operation in northern Iraq, but also has informed Iraq in time, through diplomatic channels, in order to avoid any misunderstanding. Indeed, the units of the Turkish armed forces which have conducted the operation, with the cooperation of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), have begun withdrawing from Iraq as of 20 June 1997.

The situation in northern Iraq has provided the PKK, a terrorist organization, with the opportunity to establish a presence in the area, in violation of Iraq's territorial integrity, and to conduct from there raids into Turkish territory. These raids have resulted in loss of life and property. The PKK presence in the area has also constituted a major security threat to the local population by undermining peace and stability. This is acknowledged by regional groups, the KDP in particular, which suffers the most from PKK activities in northern Iraq.

Defending the sanctity of its borders as well as the safety of its people is a priority for Turkey like any other State, and the Government of Turkey is determined to take all appropriate measures with a view to safeguarding its legitimate security interests and protecting its people against terrorism. The elimination of terrorists from northern Iraq will also constitute a major contribution to peace and stability in the region and remove the need for further operations.

I should like to take this opportunity to point out that certain countries' support of terrorism and the PKK in particular continues to undermine regional peace and stability and cannot but be condemned. I am confident that the Government of Iraq as well as other Members of the United Nations will take full account of this when assessing the causes of tension in the region.

Turkey has always supported the reintegration of Iraq with the international community through the full implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions. This continues to be our policy.

While acting in line with the international community, abiding by the United Nations sanctions regime and meticulously fulfilling its responsibilities emanating from United Nations resolutions on Iraq at great cost, the Government of Turkey has supported the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and will similarly support resolution 1111 (1997) to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Iraq. Turkey has taken all measures to ensure that the flow of humanitarian goods to Iraq was not adversely affected by the recent military operation. This has been acknowledged by United Nations officials.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) İsmail CEM
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Turkey

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/552*
18 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 16 JULY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 July 1997 addressed to Your Excellency by His Excellency Mr. Ismail Cem, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tuluy TANÇ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex

Identical letters dated 14 July 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letters dated 11 December 1996 and 8 and 21 January, 12 and 25 February, 15 April, 6, 15, 18, 21, 25, 26 and 31 May and 3 and 12 June 1997 signed by the Foreign Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister or the Acting Foreign Minister of the Republic of Iraq addressed to Your Excellency and circulated as Security Council documents S/1996/1033, S/1996/1041, S/1997/24, S/1997/72, S/1997/129, S/1997/158, S/1997/318, S/1997/354, S/1997/376, S/1997/379, S/1997/391, S/1997/393, S/1997/399, S/1997/420, S/1997/436 and S/1997/461 respectively, I should like to bring to your attention the following:

The principles and objectives of Turkish foreign policy towards Iraq have been consistent and fully in line with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council from the outset of the Gulf crisis.

This policy is based, first and foremost, on respect for the independence, sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. In view of the circumstances prevailing in northern Iraq, Turkey has also tried to contribute, to the maximum extent possible, to peace, stability and security in that area. This has been essential not only for Turkey's own security interests but also for the well-being of the inhabitants of northern Iraq.

The Government of Turkey fails to understand, therefore, the motives which may have guided the Government of Iraq to make the unfounded allegations contained in the above-mentioned letters. Turkey not only has made public the objectives and the limited scope and duration of its recent operation in northern Iraq, but also has informed Iraq in time, through diplomatic channels, in order to avoid any misunderstanding. Indeed, the units of the Turkish armed forces which have conducted the operation, with the cooperation of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), have begun withdrawing from Iraq as of 20 June 1997.

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Defending the sanctity of its borders as well as the safety of its people is a priority for Turkey like any other State, and the Government of Turkey is determined to take all appropriate measures with a view to safeguarding its legitimate security interests and protecting its people against terrorism. The elimination of terrorists from northern Iraq will also constitute a major contribution to peace and stability in the region and remove the need for further operations.

I should like to take this opportunity to point out that certain countries' support of terrorism and the PKK in particular continues to undermine regional peace and stability and cannot but be condemned. I am confident that the Government of Iraq as well as other Members of the United Nations will take full account of this when assessing the causes of tension in the region.

Turkey has always supported the reintegration of Iraq with the international community through the full implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions. This continues to be our policy.

While acting in line with the international community, abiding by the United Nations sanctions regime and meticulously fulfilling its responsibilities emanating from United Nations resolutions on Iraq at great cost, the Government of Turkey has supported the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and will similarly support resolution 1111 (1997) to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Iraq. Turkey has taken all measures to ensure that the flow of humanitarian goods to Iraq was not adversely affected by the recent military operation. This has been acknowledged by United Nations officials.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) İsmail CEM
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Turkey

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/553
16 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE CREDENTIALS OF THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received letters dated 14 July 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations stating that Ms. Susan Dickson, Ms. Kate Smith and Mr. Kevin McGurgan have been appointed alternate representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these communications constitute adequate provisional credentials.

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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1997/554
16 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE CREDENTIALS OF THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a note verbale dated 11 July 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations stating that Mr. Ahmed H. Darwish has been appointed alternate representative of Egypt on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this communication constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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S/1997/555
17 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 16 JULY 1997 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

As you are aware, the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly was resumed on Tuesday, 15 July 1997, pursuant to paragraph 13 of Assembly resolution ES-10/2 of 25 April 1997. It would be recalled that the emergency special session was convened as a result of the failure of the Security Council to adopt a position on the matter of illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Thirty-seven Member States and one observer participated in the debate on the "Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory". On Tuesday, 15 July 1997, by a recorded vote of 131 in favour to 3 against, with 14 abstentions, the General Assembly adopted resolution ES-10/3.

In that connection,I have the honour to draw your attention, in particular, to paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the resolution, in which the General Assembly:

> "1. Condemns the failure of the Government of Israel to comply with the demands made by the General Assembly at its tenth emergency special session in resolution ES-10/2;
>
> "2. Strongly deplores the lack of cooperation of the Government of Israel and its attempts to impose restrictions upon the intended mission of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem;
>
> "3. Reaffirms that all illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially settlement activity, and the practical results thereof cannot be recognized irrespective of the passage of time;
>
> "6. Recommends to Member States that they actively discourage activities which directly contribute to any construction or development of

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Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, as these activities contravene international law;

"7. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, make available to Member States the necessary information about goods produced or manufactured in the illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem;

"8. Stresses that all Member States, in order to ensure their rights and benefits resulting from membership, should fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

"10. Recommends that the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War convene a conference on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and to ensure its respect, in accordance with common article 1, and requests the Secretary-General to present a report on the matter within three months;

"11. Calls for the reinjection of momentum into the stalled Middle East peace process and for the implementation of the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, as well as for the upholding of the principles of the process, including the exchange of land for peace, and calls upon the two sides to refrain from actions that impede the peace process by pre-empting permanent status negotiations;

"13. Decides to adjourn the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly temporarily and to authorize the President of the most recent General Assembly to resume its meetings upon request from Member States."

I would like to request your assistance in bringing the contents of the resolution to the attention of the members of the Security Council and would also request that you circulate the text of the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) RAZALI Ismail

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General Assembly
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GENERAL

A/51/944
S/1997/556
17 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda items 109 and 110
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 17 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith for your urgent attention a declaration issued on 16 July 1997 by H.E. Mr. Son Soubert, Second Vice-President and member of the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly (annex I), on the recent bloody coup d'état in Cambodia launched by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen on 5 July 1997, as well as a statement issued on 15 July 1997 by members of Parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia (annex II).

I would be deeply grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of the present letter and its annexes as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 109 and 110, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) SISOWATH Sirirath
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX I

Declaration issued on 16 July 1997 by Mr. Son Soubert, Second Vice-President and member of the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly of Cambodia

Noting that Mr. Hun Sen led a barbaric and undemocratic coup d'état in order to assume power by force on 5 and 6 July 1997,

Considering that the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in its article 100, stipulates that:

> "On the proposal of the President of the National Assembly and with the agreement of both Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly, the King appoints a high-ranking personality among the members of the National Assembly (Parliament) from the political party that wins the election, in order to form the Government",

Considering articles 7 to 10 and 19 of the rules of procedure of the National Assembly,

In my capacity as Second Vice-President and as a member of the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly, I wish to declare that:

1. No plenary session of the National Assembly may be legally convened without the adoption of the agenda of the session by the 12 members of the Permanent Committee beforehand (article 19). But today five members of the Permanent Committee have already left the country and the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Samdech Chea Sim, is now Acting Chief of State. Therefore the members of the Permanent Committee who may attend the meeting number only six, i.e., the quorum of the Permanent Committee meeting which requires the presence of at least seven members cannot be met (article 10); no Deputy-Chairman or Secretary of the Committee has the right to decide or to act in place of the Chairman of each of the Committees.

2. The new First Prime Minister cannot be elected at will, because any proposal to appoint a candidate as Prime Minister must be made according to the agreement between the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly (article 100 of the Constitution). In the present situation, in my capacity as Second Vice-President of the National Assembly, I cannot agree to the proposal to appoint any new candidate to the premiership, because of the above-mentioned irregularities and illegality.

(Signed) SON Soubert
Vice-President and member of
the Permanent Committee of
the National Assembly

ANNEX II

Statement issued on 15 July 1997 by members of Parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia

We, the members of Parliament of the Kingdom of Cambodia, strongly condemn the violent coup d'état organized by a former member of the Khmer Rouge, Mr. Hun Sen, on 5 and 6 July 1997.

The coup d'état has created an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, and many of us can no longer stay in Cambodia (more than 20 members of Parliament, including a Second Deputy Chairperson of the National Assembly and 5 Permanent Committee members have already left the country) and have no choice but to escape the horrible acts committed by the leader of the coup.

We, the members of Parliament, wish to make the following recommendations:

- To restore peace to Cambodia, the Paris Conference should be reconvened in order to implement once again the provisions of the Paris Peace Accords, in particular the cantonment and disarmament of all armed forces;

- Not to recognize the Government installed by Hun Sen after the coup or the decisions made by an illegal and intimidated Parliament;

- To set up an international tribunal as soon as possible, in order to try and punish those who have committed genocide or crimes against humanity in Cambodia;

- To put pressure on Hun Sen and his forces to stop intimidating people and to create safe havens for those who are fleeing the danger zones;

- To protect all the people, especially the opposition parties and their supporters, from the arrests and executions being committed by the troops of Hun Sen;

- To impose economic sanctions upon and cut off all aid to Cambodia until democracy and respect for human rights are restored in Cambodia;

- To urge the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to protect the Angkor temples and to declare the area a security zone free of all military action.

(Signed) SON Soubert Second Vice-President of the National Assembly	(Signed) KEM Sokha, M.P. Chairman, Committee on Human Rights of the National Assembly	(Signed) POL Ham M.P. for Kampong Thom	(Signed) SON Chhay M.P. for Siem Reap

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/557
17 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated 16 July 1997 from H.R.H. Samdech Korm Preah Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, addressed to Your Excellency regarding the current situation in Cambodia.

In this regard, I would be deeply grateful to Your Excellency if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) SISOWATH Sirirath
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 16 July 1997 from the First Prime Minister of Cambodia addressed to the President of the Security Council

May I first of all be permitted to express my sincere appreciation to you for taking your precious time to receive me last Thursday, 10 July, and to share with me the grave situation of Cambodia. Through your good offices, I would be deeply grateful if you could transmit my profound thanks and appreciation to the members of the Security Council for taking the initiative in approving a presidential statement dated 11 July 1997 (S/PRST/1997/37) on the situation of Cambodia.

Of course, I would like to have seen much stronger language included in the presidential statement. But I can understand the positions of certain members. What is important is that we focus on the international Paris Conference on Cambodia, whereby the co-signatories along with the two Co-Chairmen, France and Indonesia, should discuss a resumed special session of the Conference. I strongly welcome and support all efforts to promote peace and democracy and I remain open to dialogue with my partner Second Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen. I commend the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the initiatives it has undertaken to bring about a peaceful settlement for my country and for the question of the legitimacy of the Royal Government of Cambodia, of which I am the legally elected First Prime Minister.

The event that took place in my country on Saturday, 5 July 1997, was a violent coup d'état. No elected government official anywhere on earth should be brought down by the force of arms. My Government was born out of free and fair elections organized and supervised by the United Nations. I appeal to the Security Council to deny recognition to Mr. Hun Sen's new puppet First Prime Minister. The Council did very well on the question of the democratically elected President Aristide of Haiti and the same formula should be applied to Cambodia.

Mr. Hun Sen's bloody seizure of power is an affront to democracy and a flagrant violation of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreements. The awkward arrangement of two heads of Government which I was forced to accept with the loser in democratically held, United Nations-supervised elections has brought us all to the present situation. It finally gave Mr. Hun Sen time to consolidate his military power and to crush the democratic process and his political opponents.

May I remind you that this is not an internal affair of the Cambodian people. I do not wish to see history record that the death of democracy in Cambodia was the failure of the United Nations to act, and to act quickly.

(Signed) NORODOM Ranariddh
First Prime Minister

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S/1997/558
18 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN ABKHAZIA, GEORGIA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of resolution 1096 (1997) of 30 January 1997, in which the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for a new period, terminating on 31 July 1997. By the same resolution, I was requested to continue to keep the Council regularly informed, to report after three months on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, including on the operations of UNOMIG, and to provide recommendations in that report on the nature of the United Nations presence. In compliance with that request, I submitted a report to the Security Council on 25 April 1997 (S/1997/340). The present report provides an update of the situation as at 10 July 1997 and contains recommendations regarding the peacemaking process and the role of the United Nations.

II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. Key issues of the Georgian/Abkhaz peace process, such as the future political status of Abkhazia and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, remain unresolved. However, during the reporting period vigorous efforts were made by the United Nations, the Russian Federation, in its capacity as facilitator, the group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to revitalize the peace process.

3. As I indicated in my report of 25 April 1997 (see S/1997/340, para. 39), I appointed Mr. Liviu Bota as my resident Special Representative for Georgia with effect from 1 July 1997. Mr. Bota, who succeeds Ambassador Edouard Brunner, my former Special Envoy, will be based in Tbilisi and Sukhumi and will continue to serve as Head of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).

4. In a number of statements since my last report, the Government of Georgia and the Abkhaz authorities have reaffirmed their commitment to resolving the conflict by political means and have expressed support for a more active role for the United Nations in the peace process. A similar position was expressed by the Russian Federation during my visit to Moscow in mid-May 1997.

President Boris Yeltsin reconfirmed this position at the G-8 meeting at Denver, Colorado, the following month by supporting an enhanced role for the United Nations in the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia. In particular, the two parties to the conflict, the five Governments members of Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia and the OSCE support my initiative to convene a high-level meeting on the conflict, to map out the areas where concrete political progress could be made, particularly in practical matters. The meeting will now take place at Geneva from 23 to 25 July 1997, under the chairmanship of my Special Representative for Georgia, with the participation of the two parties to the conflict, the Russian Federation as facilitator, the OSCE, and representatives of the States belonging to the Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia.

5. In early May 1997, a delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, headed by Ambassador Gennadi Ilitchev, visited Sukhumi and met with the Abkhaz leaders. In June, the Russian Federation hosted intensive Georgian-Abkhaz consultations in Moscow on a draft document prepared by the Russian facilitators and entitled "Protocol on a Georgian-Abkhaz settlement", which contains basic principles for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The Georgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Irakli Menagarashvili, and the Abkhaz leader, Mr. Vladislav Ardzinba, took part in the consultations. The delegations left Moscow on 20 June 1997 without reaching an agreement on the text of the Protocol, though some rapprochement between the positions of the two parties was reported. Further unofficial contacts and discussions on the issue continued afterwards. In early July, the Deputy Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Berezovsky, visited Tbilisi and Sukhumi twice and had discussions with the Government of Georgia and the Abkhaz authorities in another attempt to move the peace process forward. Mr. Berezovsky paid his second visit to Sukhumi jointly with the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, Mr. Zurab Zhvania, and the Special Representation of the President of Georgia to the Peace Process, Ambassador Vazha Lordkipanidze.

6. The Abkhaz side proposed that the two sides to the conflict should conclude a treaty providing for renunciation of the use of force. The Georgian side did not see the need for such a treaty, since the commitment of the two parties to solve all existing problems peacefully had already been included in documents signed earlier.

7. In his address to Parliament on 27 May 1997, the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, suggested convening an international conference on Abkhazia, Georgia, under United Nations auspices. According to the President, the conference could be organized and hosted by the Russian Federation and attended by the parties to the conflict, the United Nations, OSCE, the Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia and possibly other interested Governments. Representatives of the North Caucasian republics of the Russian Federation could be given observer status.

8. President Shevardnadze and other Georgian leaders stated on a number of occasions that the presence of the peacekeeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the conflict zone would not be possible after the expiry of the force's mandate on 31 July 1997, unless the decisions of the CIS summit meeting of 28 March 1997 on the expansion of the security zone and the

repatriation of the refugees and internally displaced persons were implemented. The above position was supported by the Georgian parliament in a resolution on a further presence of the Russian armed forces under the aegis of CIS in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, adopted on 30 May 1997. The Georgian leaders emphasized, however, that even if the CIS peacekeeping force were to be withdrawn, the Georgian side would not resume hostilities. On 23 June, the Russian State Duma adopted a resolution in which, inter alia, it requested the President of the Russian Federation to undertake efforts to secure the presence of the CIS peacekeeping force in the conflict zone in Abkhazia, Georgia, beyond the expiry of its mandate on 31 July 1997. Following the adoption of the resolution, the Secretary of the Defence Council of the Russian Federation, Mr. Youri Baturin, visited Tbilisi in early July and reportedly discussed the issue of the presence of the CIS peacekeeping force in the conflict zone with Georgian leaders.

9. During the reporting period, a number of OSCE officials visited Georgia and discussed issues relating to the conflict in Abkhazia. These included the OSCE Secretary-General, Mr. Giancarlo Aragona (during the second half of April), the High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Max Van der Stoel (during the second half of June), the representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Jørgen Viggo Andersen (in mid-May), and the Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Special Rapporteur on the situation in Abkhazia, Mr. Wojciech Lamentowicz (in late June). Mr. Andersen and Mr. Lamentowicz also visited Sukhumi. In early May, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Ms. Lenny Fisher, visited Tbilisi. Representatives of the European Union and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development visited the Inguri dam (located on the Georgian side of the ceasefire line) and the Inguri Hydroelectric Power Station (on the Abkhaz side), for the purpose of assisting the two sides with the rehabilitation of those economically important sites.

10. In mid-April 1997, the Ministries of Communication of Georgia and the Russian Federation implemented their earlier decision (see S/1997/340, para. 6) on routing all external telephone communications to and from Abkhazia through Tbilisi, instead of through the territory of the Russian Federation. The Abkhaz side objected to the move and refused to use the new telephone lines, thus leaving the population of Abkhazia without communications to the outside world. As a retaliatory measure, it considerably reduced electricity supplies to Georgia from the Inguri Hydroelectric Power Station. Despite the ensuing tensions, both sides established direct contact to discuss the issues of energy and communications. However, to date the issues remain largely unresolved.

11. There were also other initiatives during the reporting period aimed at strengthening peace, security and cooperation in the region. On 31 May 1997, representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the North Caucasian republics, regions and districts of the Russian Federation met at Kislovodsk, Russian Federation, and adopted a statement on mutual understanding, peace and inter-ethnic concord in the Caucasus. Expressing their determination to contribute to lasting peace in the region, the participants in the meeting, inter alia, condemned all forms of use of force to solve disputes between them, as well as all forms of terrorism. They supported respect for human rights and the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes.

III. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

12. The situation of most civilians throughout Abkhazia, Georgia, remains extremely difficult: food supplies are generally scarce, particularly for the aged; the health sector has almost completely collapsed; shelter is inadequate and schools are desperately ill-equipped and lack the most basic supplies. There have, however, been some improvements during the past three months, owing mostly to the efforts of aid agencies and, in part, because of improved weather conditions.

13. Aid agencies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins san frontières (MSF-France), have enhanced their programmes in Abkhazia during the past three months. UNHCR, in particular, initiated programmes of emergency repairs to some 30 schools; expanded its agricultural programme, distributing seeds and fertilizer to vulnerable families throughout the region; and provided shelter materials for civilians in need at Gali, as well as specialized equipment for the hospital and other health structures in southern Abkhazia. In addition to its ongoing programme, targeting especially the provision of food and assistance to medically vulnerable civilians, ICRC is in the final stages of an assessment of the situation of the population of the Kodori Valley, which remains almost completely cut off from other areas of Georgia. MSF-France, with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has carried out a special polio campaign for children. It has also boosted its efforts to combat tuberculosis which has spread throughout the region. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat has now placed an international staff member in its sub-office in Sukhumi to strengthen overall coordination amongst aid agencies, as well as between them and UNOMIG. A series of donor visits to the region, including by representatives from Denmark, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the European Union, have enabled aid agencies, in particular UNHCR, to assess the situation on the ground.

14. Council members will recall that funding for certain humanitarian programmes that operated in the Zugdidi area ended on 1 April 1997 and, as a result, non-governmental organizations ceased distribution of food and medicine there (see S/1997/340, para. 14). Although internally displaced persons did not protest the cessation of such programmes, there were several small demonstrations calling for the Government to pay the monthly allowances of such persons. These payments continue to be behind schedule. Non-governmental organizations and humanitarian agencies continue to operate in the Gali region. However, owing to the mine threat and the lack of proper protection, they limit their activities to areas adjacent to the main road crossing the sector (the M-27) and seldom reach outlying regions where aid is most needed. UNOMIG has offered its services to various humanitarian agencies and, since April, it has been assisting ICRC in delivering humanitarian aid to the village of Primorsk. There have been sporadic attempts by some non-governmental organizations to initiate humanitarian programmes in the Kodori Valley.

15. There has been a noticeable increase in spontaneous returns of internally displaced persons from the Zugdidi area to the Gali district during the past three months. It is possible that some of these were connected with the spring

planting season. However, most returnees appear to be staying. Estimates indicate that up to 50,000 civilians now live in the Gali district, including areas north-west and south-east of the Gali Canal.

16. The United Nations office for the protection and promotion of human rights in Abkhazia, Georgia, has continued its work. The office opened premises in the centre of Sukhumi on 1 July 1997. These premises, which are outside the UNOMIG compound, will facilitate access by the local population to the staff of the office and to human rights publications.

17. A memorandum of understanding concerning the United Nations office for the protection and promotion of human rights was signed by the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights and the Secretary-General of OSCE on 25 April 1997. The officer contributed by OSCE will be deployed to the office once financial arrangements have been finalized between the United Nations and OSCE.

IV. OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA

18. UNOMIG continues to operate in the restricted weapons zones of the Zugdidi and Gali sectors and in the Kodori Valley. As previously reported (see S/1997/340, para. 18), the arrival of mine-protected and other vehicles and the resumption of the resurfacing of the main roads in the Gali sector, which is still ongoing, have proved effective. While certain areas are still considered dangerous, the observers are able to patrol throughout the sector. The number of military observers has been reduced to 116 (see annex). It will be recalled that following a thorough review of the operational requirements of UNOMIG, it was considered that a total of 106 observers should be sufficient to enable the Mission to carry out the tasks entrusted to it under resolution 937 (1994) of 21 July 1994. The strength of the Mission will continue to be reduced gradually and will reach the recommended level of 106 in November 1997.

19. On 2 May, UNOMIG reopened the team base at Adjara in the Kodori Valley. The base had been closed during the winter months and while repairs were being made to a section of the road leading to it, which had been rendered impassable by a landslide (see S/1997/340, para. 20). Road conditions continue to be the main impediment to patrolling in the area, as rain frequently causes further landslides.

20. The Commander of the CIS peacekeeping force has continued to chair the weekly quadripartite meetings which bring together the UNOMIG Chief Military Observer and representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz police, militia, security services and local administration. These meetings were held regularly during the reporting period, except on 2 and 9 July, when the Abkhaz side did not attend to protest what it stated was the continued infiltration of Georgian armed groups into Abkhazia. During the previous two months, Abkhaz and Georgian representatives met bilaterally, following the quadripartite meetings, to discuss the exchange of prisoners and the return of bodies of those killed during the hostilities of 1993. During the reporting period, 42 bodies were repatriated to Georgia and a total of 24 Abkhaz and Georgian prisoners were exchanged.

21. It will be recalled that UNOMIG has made vigorous efforts to improve the safety of the Mission's staff, including arrangements with the CIS peacekeeping force, systematic patrolling in groups of two vehicles and round-the-clock protection of the Mission's installations and assets. Nonetheless, UNOMIG personnel and property were again the victims of acts of robbery and theft on nine occasions. The most serious incident occurred on 25 April 1997, when a military observer was robbed at gun-point in his home by two men, who were reportedly Abkhaz militia.

V. SITUATION ON THE GROUND

A. General

22. The situation in the Gali restricted weapons zone and, in particular, the security zone, has remained unstable and tense. Acts of violence, including common crime, continued to be a problem during the reporting period. Most of the mine-related incidents, which involved remote-control and pressure-sensitive mines and explosive devices, were directed against the CIS peacekeeping force and the Abkhaz militia and administration. During May 1997, four separate devices were placed in the city of Sukhumi; three were discovered and disarmed, but the fourth exploded, killing one local man. In addition to the tragic killing of 10 CIS peacekeeping soldiers by one of their comrades who subsequently killed himself, there were four incidents of attacks against the peacekeeping force and the Abkhaz militia, resulting in the death of 3 peacekeepers and 1 Abkhaz militia and injuring another eight.

23. Stability in the security and restricted weapons zones of the Gali sector continues to be severely affected by the high rate of common crime such as kidnapping, looting and armed robbery. Reportedly, a large number of armed groups in uniform have been infiltrating the Zugdidi and Gali sectors. On several occasions, the Abkhaz militia exchanged fire with such groups, resulting in five infiltrators killed and eight militia wounded.

24. The Abkhaz militia, who are poorly trained and ill-equipped, are unable to control the area. In addition, local mayors in the lower Gali region reportedly take their instructions from the leaders of the "Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia-in-exile" and refuse to cooperate with the Abkhaz authorities regarding local administration. Although the Abkhaz militia and authorities have attempted to establish posts in the lower Gali region, the situation there was considered too dangerous to do so.

25. There have been several attacks against Abkhaz citizens and militia, as well as officers of the CIS peacekeeping force. The most serious incident took place on 1 June when an armoured personnel carrier was blown up by a remote-control explosive device, killing one officer and seriously wounding another.

B. Security and restricted weapons zones

26. Both sides have generally complied with the Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994 (S/1994/583 and Corr.1, annex I). UNOMIG has reported 11 violations of the Agreement by the Abkhaz side and 42 by the Georgian side. However, the vast majority of these were minor violations and did not alter the situation on the ground. The most serious violation was the presence of an Abkhaz tank in the restricted weapons zone near Ochamchira on 14 May 1997. When this presence was protested, the Abkhaz Minister of Defence insisted that the tank was outside the restricted weapons zone. The same argument was used by the Government of Georgia to deny UNOMIG access to an artillery unit south of the Inguri river, which has long been suspected of holding heavy armaments. The Head of Mission is looking closely into this matter.

C. Kodori Valley

27. The situation in the Kodori Valley has generally remained calm, with the exception of occasional increases in tension due to Abkhaz army and militia activities in the area. The Georgian police continue to operate in the area, where their presence contributes to security.

28. UNOMIG observers have continued to meet with officers of the CIS peacekeeping force and of the Abkhaz army at their checkpoints in the lower part of the Kodori Valley. They have also continued to meet with Svanetian representatives and their relationship with the local population remains excellent. The Mission attended a meeting of Svanetian, Abkhaz, Georgian and CIS peacekeeping force's representatives, which, it observed, was held in a cordial atmosphere.

D. The mine problem

29. The mine threat continues to be the most serious problem in the Gali security and restricted weapons zones. During the period under review, there were six incidents, which appeared to be targeted against the CIS peacekeeping force, the Abkhaz militia and a Russian citizen. In addition, several explosive devices were found in Sukhumi and in the Gali region and were defused by the force's personnel.

30. Until 18 June, when an explosion occurred near the Inguri main bridge, the M-27 road was considered relatively safe. UNOMIG continues to limit its vehicular movement and the observers take necessary precautions when transiting the Gali sector. Mine-protected vehicles continue to be used as escort vehicles for traffic crossing the main road and patrolling off it. The road resurfacing project mentioned in my previous report (see S/1997/340, para. 32) has again been delayed as workers are reluctant to take part in it for fear of the mines.

31. The CIS peacekeeping force has been subjected to direct attacks by the mine-layers. As a result of such attacks and in an attempt to reduce its visibility, it has limited its escorts of Abkhaz authorities and its provision

of supplies to the Abkhaz militia. In addition, it has continued to conduct primarily static checkpoint operations, although there are some instances of patrolling in the upper Gali region where the mine threat is not as significant.

32. It will be recalled that the Secretariat has for some time been awaiting a response from a Government regarding the provision of mine-detection vehicles and support personnel. That response has not been forthcoming. However, since the mine-layers do not appear to be targeting UNOMIG's personnel, it is the Chief Military Observer's assessment that the deployment of these vehicles, while important, is no longer urgent. Nonetheless, taking into consideration that the situation on the ground might change, the Secretariat will continue to pursue that option.

VI. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA AND THE COLLECTIVE PEACEKEEPING FORCES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

33. UNOMIG continues to observe the activities of the CIS peacekeeping force and to cooperate with it. Cooperation on the ground continues as described in my report of 20 January 1997 (see S/1997/47, para. 35). Cooperation between the commanding officers has also been very good, in spite of changes in the leadership of the peacekeeping force.

34. The troops of the CIS peacekeeping force rotated in April and May 1997. The force's soldiers are now better trained, more professional and more communicative. However, owing to the mine threat, their patrolling remains limited. The newly deployed soldiers have been trying to improve their relationship with the local population, but anti-Russian sentiment remains high amongst the Georgian community in the Gali sector.

35. The force's mandate is scheduled to end on 31 July 1997. As explained in paragraph 8 above, several Georgian leaders, including President Shevardnadze, have called for the withdrawal of the force after the expiry of its mandate if the decisions taken at the CIS summit meeting of 28 March 1997 are not implemented. Although discussions on that matter have been ongoing, a final decision has yet to be taken. As a result, tension continues to increase.

VII. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

36. By its resolution 51/236 of 13 June 1997, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $18,580,500 (gross) for UNOMIG for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. This authorization is subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission.

37. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNOMIG beyond 31 July 1997, as is recommended in paragraph 45 below, the monthly cost of maintaining the Mission until 31 January 1998 would be limited to the appropriation contained in General Assembly resolution 51/236 (equivalent to $1,548,375 per month).

38. As at 30 June 1997, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNOMIG Special Account amounted to $5.5 million. The total of outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1.7 billion.

VIII. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS

39. The Government of Georgia continues to ensure proper coordination of donor activities with the assistance of various United Nations and other international organizations. On 30 March 1997, President Shevardnadze approved a decree establishing a Foreign Investment Advisory Council responsible for the coordination and management of all financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to the country. Since then, the Council has met regularly, approving various new initiatives in favour of the development of Georgia. The secretariat of the Council is supported by an Aid Coordination Agency, an institution of the Presidential Chancellery, which has received support from various donors, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.

40. The economy of Georgia continues to be stable. However, the situation in the social sector remains very serious and is cause for concern for the local authorities and the donor community at large. UNDP, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are conducting, with the Government of Georgia, separate studies on various aspects of the social situation. UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) continue to monitor the evolution of the health sector.

41. The Government, in collaboration with United Nations agencies, has completed a country strategy note, which will be circulated at the end of July 1997. The note will provide the overall framework for coordination of all international aid programmes and will include elements to direct humanitarian assistance towards emergency needs, in accordance with the recommendations of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs-led Inter-agency Task Force for Humanitarian Assistance to Newly Independent States.

42. The reconstruction programme has taken on momentum with the European Union's approval of a special contribution of 4 million European currency units (ECUs). It is expected that the new contribution will be closely coordinated with the assistance provided by UNDP and UNHCR for reconstruction activities in South Ossetia.

IX. OBSERVATIONS

43. Prospects for progress in the Georgian/Abkhaz peace process have improved. The Russian Federation's efforts to resolve the situation and my declared commitment to strengthen United Nations involvement in that process (see S/1997/47, para. 45, and S/1997/340, para. 39) have set in motion a series of initiatives by the parties to the conflict. It is encouraging that both sides have begun to show more flexibility and that, despite some public pronouncements

to the contrary, there appears to be a serious effort towards accommodation and compromise under way.

44. The forthcoming high-level meeting at Geneva with both sides is intended to set the stage for the further intensification of United Nations efforts. I shall report to the Security Council on the results of the meeting at the earliest possible opportunity in an addendum to the present report.

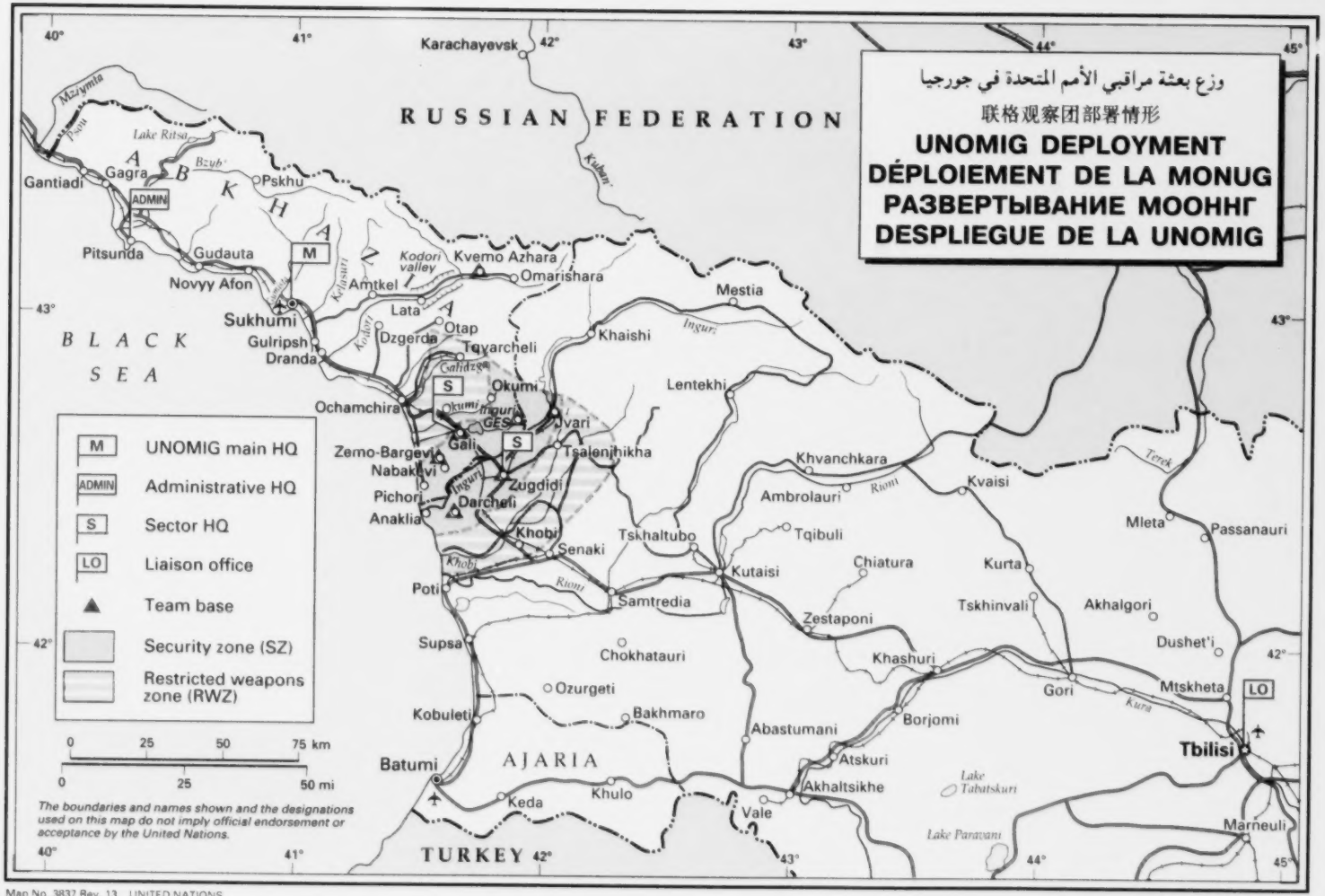
45. In the light of progress in the political process and bearing in mind the positive effects that UNOMIG continues to have on the situation, I recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Mission until 31 January 1998. Since, however, the mandate of the CIS peacekeeping force will expire on 31 July 1997, the extension of the mandate of UNOMIG should be subject to an early review by the Council if decisions taken by the Governments of the States that make up CIS result in changes in the mandate of that force. I shall, of course, keep the Security Council informed of developments in this regard.

46. In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation of the dedicated work of my former Special Envoy for Georgia, Ambassador Edouard Brunner, over the past four years. I should also like to thank my Special Representative, Mr. Liviu Bota, and the Chief Military Observer, Major-General Harun Ar-Rashid, as well as all the military and civilian personnel under their command, for their continued dedication and perseverance in carrying out, under difficult conditions, the tasks entrusted to them by the Security Council.

Annex

Composition of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia as at 10 July 1997

Country	Military observers
Albania	1
Austria	4
Bangladesh	10
Cuba	4
Czech Republic	4
Denmark	3
Egypt	5
France	5
Germany	10
Greece	4
Hungary	5
Indonesia	5
Jordan	7
Pakistan	7
Poland	4
Republic of Korea	4
Russian Federation	3
Sweden	5
Switzerland	5
Turkey	5
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	8
United States of America	4
Uruguay	4
Total	116



Map No. 3837 Rev. 13 UNITED NATIONS
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Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
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S/1997/558/Add.1
29 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN ABKHAZIA, GEORGIA

Addendum

1. As foreseen in paragraphs 4 and 44 of my report of 18 July 1997 (S/1997/558), a high-level meeting took place at Geneva from 23 to 25 July 1997 under the chairmanship of my Special Representative for Georgia. The meeting was held with the participation of the two parties to the conflict and was attended by the Russian Federation as facilitator, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the representatives of the States belonging to the group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia.

2. At the opening meeting, my Special Representative read out my message in which I stated that the goals of the talks were to map out areas where concrete political progress could be made, in particular on practical issues, and to re-establish a process of continuing work towards achieving the final goal of a comprehensive political settlement.

3. The meeting worked towards the goals I had identified and, following informal consultations and several formal sessions, the Chairman made a statement on the final day, in which he reported that the parties had welcomed the proposals of the Secretary-General to strengthen the involvement of the United Nations in the peacemaking process aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement. The parties had reaffirmed their commitment to the non-use of force or threat of the use of force against each other as expressed in their communiqué of 13 January 1994. The Chairman stated that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia, the representatives of OSCE and States members of the group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia had called upon the Russian Federation and the parties to strive for agreement on continuing the peacekeeping operation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in order to secure favourable and peaceful conditions for the continuation of negotiations to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. The Chairman stated that he would reconvene the meeting in September at a date to be announced.

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4. In the formal sessions, statements were made by the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, as well as by the representatives of the Russian Federation, France (on behalf of the Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia), OSCE, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat. The Abkhaz delegation submitted its statement to my Special Representative with attachments, which are available for information in the Secretariat. Before the formal opening of the meeting on 23 July, a written statement was submitted by the Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia.

5. I shall keep the members of the Security Council informed of further developments, including the meeting scheduled for September, as appropriate.

UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/51/945
S/1997/559
18 July 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 56
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 15 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 10 July 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union concerning the situation in Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 56, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative of
Luxembourg to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement issued on 10 July 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the situation in Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The European Union (EU) continues to be profoundly concerned by the crisis in Republika Srpska. It is characterized by machinations in outright opposition to the development of a normal democratic life and by unacceptable measures of intimidation and harassment. It is impeding the continuation of the implementation of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is therefore imperative for the international community to react to this situation.

The European Union reaffirms its full support for the efforts of the High Representative.

The European Union stresses the need to achieve a rapid solution to the political deadlock and to ensure respect for the office of the President of Republika Srpska, whose decision to dissolve the Republika Srpska Parliamentary Assembly was held to be in accordance with the Constitution by EU. The Union calls upon all parties to work towards a political solution in a peaceful manner and through dialogue.

EU calls upon the police to stop their measures of intimidation. Moreover, it is essential that all provisions dealing with the police, particularly the need to reorganize, reform and certify the police forces, be adopted. The approach of the International Police Task Force (IPTF) with regard to checkpoints should be continued. There should be full cooperation with the Deputy High Representative for Brčko and with IPTF.

The European Union expects the media in the Republika Srpska to contribute towards reducing the crisis. It is imperative that they comply with their duty of objectivity, contrary to what has been the case up to now, and provide public opinion with an account of events taken as a whole and without distortions likely to favour certain currents of opinion.

The authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as co-signatories to the peace agreements, must also face up to their responsibilities and act with a view to achieving a political, democratic and peaceful solution to the crisis which the Republika Srpska is currently undergoing.

The European Union asks the parties once again to comply fully with the undertakings entered into at Dayton and in particular their obligation to hand over to the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia those persons indicted for war crimes. In this regard, it considers the action undertaken by the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Prijedor to be perfectly legitimate. It is unacceptable that an influential figure indicted for war crimes by the International Tribunal has failed to keep out of the political debate in the Republika Srpska, in breach of the undertakings made on 18 July 1996. As a person indicted by the International Tribunal, Mr. Karadžić's place is in The Hague.

The European Union recalls that a stable Republika Srpska, which cooperates in the implementation of the peace process, will benefit substantially from the material aid which EU is making available for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

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S/1997/560
24 July 1997

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Items 36, 37 and 87
of the provisional agenda*
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Identical letters dated 18 July 1997 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Israel's reaction to resolution ES-10/3 of 15 July 1997, which was overwhelmingly adopted by the General Assembly at its resumed tenth emergency special session, is indeed a reason for increased concern on our part and on the part of the international community. The reaction reflects the same kind of intransigence, arrogance and even contempt for the will of the international community.

Mr. David Bar-Illan, an adviser of the Prime Minister of Israel, called the resolution "shameful" and "morally bankrupt". Prime Minister Netanyahu himself went on to threaten the Palestinians in a show of complete disregard for the positions of Member States by stating: "If the Palestinians think that this ridiculous and meaningless resolution can succeed at achieving anything, they have made a big mistake. Israel will continue to maintain its sovereignty in Jerusalem despite the objections of other countries throughout the world".

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* A/52/150.

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Before the resumption of the tenth emergency special session, the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations submitted the Israeli response (A/52/225-S/1997/530) to the report of the Secretary-General (A/ES-10/6-S/1997/494 and Corr.1), which was submitted pursuant to resolution ES-10/2 of 25 April 1997. Such an outrageous response can only be viewed as absolute nonsense, as it makes unacceptable challenges to the integrity of the work of the United Nations and ignores the facts on the ground and the established positions of the international community, as well as the provisions of international law. This lengthy response, in fact, does not even deserve an answer.

These kinds of actions and responses, in addition to the fact that Israel continues illegal settlement activities, including at Jabal Abu Ghneim, clearly indicate that the Israeli Government does not understand the messages that have been sent by the international community. Obviously this increases the need for serious follow-up of resolutions ES-10/2 and ES-10/3, and probably even the need for further actions by the international community with the aim of ensuring Israel's compliance with the provisions of those resolutions and other relevant United Nations resolutions, as well as provisions of international law.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under items 36, 37 and 87 of the provisional agenda, as well as of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/561
22 July 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 18 JULY 1997 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to attach a copy of the letter from Mr. Ange-Félix Patasse, President of the Republic and head of State, concerning the status of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB), set up in January 1997 following the serious disturbances that occurred in the Central African Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ambroisine KPONGO
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 4 July 1997 from Mr. Ange-Félix Patasse, President of the Central African Republic, addressed to the Secretary-General

The Central African Republic is today facing a grave crisis, which, in a context of great regional instability, justifies my addressing the Security Council directly today to request the international community's support for the current peace efforts. This crisis stems from the army rebellions which broke out in 1996. As a result of these rebellions, a large supply of weapons is still in the hands of the ex-rebels and the militia.

To address this situation, the Government of the Central African Republic requested that an inter-African monitoring mechanism should be established. The Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB) was set up in January 1997 at my request, under the authority of President El Hadj Omar Bongo, to help restore peace and security in this country, and in particular to disarm the ex-rebels, the militia and all other unlawfully armed individuals. The States participating in MISAB are Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, Mali, Senegal and Togo.

The countries contributing troops to MISAB deserve high praise for their tireless efforts to maintain security since February 1997. Nonetheless, serious tensions persist in the Central African Republic. They are likely to affect regional stability and therefore threaten international peace and security.

In the hope of placing the actions of MISAB within an appropriate political and legal framework, the Central African Republic requests the Security Council to authorize the States members of this mission to carry out the necessary operations, neutrally and impartially, to attain the objectives defined by the mandate of MISAB and to authorize, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, these States and the States supporting them to ensure the security and freedom of movement of MISAB personnel.

Please find attached to this letter the mandate of the inter-African force to monitor the implementation of the Bangui Agreements and the text of the agreement on the status of this force.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ange-Félix PATASSE

Appendix I

Mandate of the Inter-African force to monitor the implementation of the Bangui Agreements

Recalling the decision of the heads of State and Government of France and Africa meeting in Ouagadougou from 4 to 6 December 1996,

Considering the declaration issued by the heads of State in Bangui on 25 January 1997,

Taking into account the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the various decisions and resolutions concerning the settlement of disputes, including the resolution establishing the central organ of the Organization of African States for the prevention, management and settlement of disputes,

Bearing in mind letters No. 009/97 and No. 010/97 of 7 January 1997 from the President of the Central African Republic requesting that an inter-African force be established in the Central African Republic,

I, El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, representing the heads of State designated by the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of France and Africa, to help find a peaceful solution to the Central Africa crisis, at the request of President Ange-Félix Patasse of the Central African Republic,

Hereby establish the terms of the mandate of the inter-African force for security and peace.

Article 1

A neutral inter-African force, to be known as the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB), is hereby established.

Article 2

The objective of MISAB is to help restore peace and security by monitoring the implementation of the agreements signed on 25 January 1997 in Bangui.

Article 3

In order to attain this objective, MISAB shall conduct operations to disarm the ex-rebels, the militia and all other unlawfully armed individuals.

Article 4

The force shall be composed initially of 600 men from the following six countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, Mali, Senegal and Togo.

It shall be structured as an operational staff headquarters composed of the following offices:

- A personnel management and administration office;
- An information gathering and processing office;
- An office for the planning and conduct of operations;
- An office of infrastructure resources management;
- A legal and civilian affairs office;
- A military police force;
- A legal adviser for, inter alia, coordinating provostal and judicial action;
- A liaison office with the Central African authorities and other parties concerned.

The work of the various offices shall be coordinated by a superior officer, deputy to the Commander of the force and Chief of Staff.

Article 5

The force shall be provided with a French logistical command unit.

Article 6

MISAB shall be placed under the political authority of President El Hadj Omar Bongo. General Amadou Toumani Touré, in his capacity as Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements, shall have such authority delegated to him.

Article 7

The conditions of stay and deployment of MISAB shall be established by the status-of-forces agreement.

Article 8

The initial duration of the mandate shall be three months as from 31 January 1997. It may be renewed at the request of the President of the Central African Republic.

Article 9

The force shall be commanded by an officer appointed by President El Hadj Omar Bongo, representing the heads of State designated by the Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of France and Africa.

Article 10

The participating countries undertake to provide the necessary troops for the accomplishment of the mission.

Article 11

Logistical and financial support for the force shall be provided by France and/or other contributors of funds.

Article 12

The Commander of the force shall make an interim report to the President of the International Committee, who shall bring the report to the attention of President El Hadj Omar Bongo.

Bangui, 6 March 1997.

(Signed) El Hadj Omar BONGO
President of the Gabonese Republic
representing the heads of State designated
by the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of Heads of
State and Government of France and Africa

Appendix II

Status of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements

Agreement between the Government of the Central African Republic

and

the Governments of Burkina Faso, the Republic of Chad, the the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Senegal and the Togolese Republic

on the status of the forces

of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements

The Government of the Central African Republic and

The Governments of Burkina Faso, the Republic of Chad, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Senegal and the Togolese Republic,

Bearing in mind the joint declaration of 25 January 1997 issued by His Excellency Mr. El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, representing the heads of State designated by the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of France and Africa to help find a solution to the Central African crisis, and His Excellency Mr. Ange-Félix Patasse, President of the Central African Republic,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For the purposes of the present Agreement the following definitions shall apply:

"MISAB" means the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements, its subsidiary bodies, its military headquarters and all the national constituent elements/units which provide support to, prepare and participate in the operation,

"The operation" means the efforts of MISAB and its personnel (support, implementation, preparation and participation) to facilitate the restoration of peace and the abatement of tension in Bangui.

"MISAB personnel" means the civilian and military personnel of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements.

"Installation" means any of the premises and sites which MISAB requires to conduct operational, training and administrative activities relating to the operation and to house its personnel.

Article 2

The MISAB personnel participating in the operation in the territory of the Central African Republic shall enjoy the same privileges and immunities as members of the administrative and technical staff of diplomatic missions under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961.

Article 3

All personnel enjoying privileges and immunities under article 2 of the present Agreement shall be required to comply with the laws of the Central African Republic, in so far as such laws are compatible with their mandate, and not to engage in any activity that is incompatible with the nature of the operation.

Should any MISAB personnel breach Central African laws while in the territory of the Central African Republic, they shall be repatriated immediately to their country of origin, where appropriate action shall be taken against them.

The Government of the country to which the person committing the breach belongs shall be required to inform the Government of the Central African Republic of any legal proceedings instituted against that person.

Any MISAB personnel mistakenly arrested or detained by the authorities of the Central African Republic shall be handed over immediately to the MISAB authorities.

Article 4

The Government of the Central African Republic recognizes that emergency procedures for the entry and departure of MISAB personnel are called for. In the case of MISAB personnel, it shall waive the passport and visa formalities and the registration requirements applicable to aliens.

MISAB personnel shall carry on them identity documents, which they may be asked to show to the Central African authorities, it being understood that the operation and any movements that the operation entails shall not be hampered or delayed by a request of this nature.

Article 5

MISAB military personnel shall normally wear uniforms. All MISAB personnel may possess and bear arms if so authorized by the regulations which apply to them.

The Central African authorities shall accept as valid, and shall exempt from fees or charges, driving licences and permits issued to MISAB personnel by their respective national authorities.

Article 6

MISAB may display a distinctive marking and/or the national flags of its constituent elements or units on all MISAB uniforms, transport and installations.

Article 7

MISAB personnel, together with MISAB vehicles, aircraft and equipment, shall enjoy unrestricted freedom of movement and unhampered freedom of access throughout the Central African Republic, including in Central African airspace. Such freedom shall include, but not be restricted to, the right to bivouac, hold manoeuvres, establish quartering and make use of any area or installation necessary to the operation, subject to consultations with the competent Central African authorities.

The Central African authorities shall facilitate by any appropriate means all movements of personnel, vehicles, aircraft and supplies passing through airports or along roads.

MISAB shall not be required to pay dues, fees, tolls or other charges for the use of airports or roads. However, it shall not claim exemption from reasonable charges imposed for services requested and rendered, it being understood that operations/movements and access cannot be delayed until such charges have been paid.

Article 8

MISAB shall be entitled to import and export, free of duty or other restriction, equipment, provisions and supplies which are required for the operation, provided that such goods are for the official use of MISAB or for resale in the commissaries or canteens established for the benefit of MISAB personnel. The goods sold shall be for the exclusive use of MISAB personnel and shall not be transferred to third parties.

Article 9

MISAB shall be entitled to have its own internal mail and telecommunication services.

The Government of the Central African Republic recognizes that the use of telecommunication lines is necessary to the operation. Use of telecommunication lines and other means of communication which could interfere with the Central African telecommunication services shall be coordinated with the appropriate Central African authorities free of charge.

Article 10

The Government of the Central African Republic shall, wherever possible, assist MISAB to occupy and use at least expense the installations which are required for MISAB operations.

Article 11

The Central African Republic, on the one hand, and the States participating in MISAB, on the other, shall not take action against each other for any damage arising out of the action of MISAB personnel during the operation.

The Government of the Central African Republic shall bear the cost of damage caused to third parties. To this end, it shall be liable instead of MISAB, in any proceedings instituted by a third party or an assign thereof, for the compensation of damage caused to the person or the property of that third party as a result of the actions of MISAB personnel during the operation.

Article 12

MISAB shall be entitled to conclude contracts for services or supplies in the Central African Republic directly, without having to pay charges. Such services and supplies shall not be subject to sales or other tax.

Article 13

During the operation MISAB may have to improve or modify Central African infrastructure (distribution networks, bridges, buildings, etc.).

Improvements or modifications which are not temporary shall become part of the original infrastructure and belong to the same owner. Temporary improvements or modifications may be dismantled at the discretion of the Commander of MISAB, in which case the installation shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original state.

Article 14

Disputes between the Central African Republic and the States participating in MISAB relating to the interpretation or implementation of the present Agreement shall, unless already resolved, be settled through the diplomatic channel.

Article 15

Supplemental arrangements may be concluded to establish the technical details of the operation, in the light also of subsequent developments.

Article 16

The Government of the Central African Republic shall allow States not members of MISAB which participate in the operation, together with their personnel, to enjoy the same privileges and immunities as those which States members of MISAB and their personnel enjoy under the present Agreement.

Article 17

The Government of the Central African Republic undertakes to establish an ad hoc committee to help MISAB make representations to the competent Central African authorities and to monitor compliance with the present Agreement.

Article 18

The present Agreement shall remain in force until the end of the operation, unless the parties agree otherwise.

Article 19

The present Agreement shall enter into force upon its signature.

Appendix III

Declaration issued by heads of State

We,

His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, representing the heads of State designated by the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of France and Africa to help find a solution to the Central African crisis, and

His Excellency Mr. Ange-Félix Patasse, President of the Central African Republic,

Meeting in Bangui today, 25 January 1997, and, with reference to the mandate entrusted to the International Monitoring Committee, having taken note with appreciation of the various reports on the work of the Committee, which is chaired by Army General Amadou Toumani Touré, former head of State of Mali,

Take note of the Preliminary Agreement on a National Reconciliation Pact, which is the outcome of a broad consultation of those representing the vital forces of the Central African nation, thereby embodying the solemn commitment of the political parties, the trade union federations and the civil society to respect the constitutional legal order and to lend full support to all initiatives to promote dialogue and national reconciliation;

Take note further of the cessation of the rebellious action involving some Army elements, which have agreed to place themselves at the disposal of the authorities of the Central African Army and to settle all future differences and disagreements by some means other than the use of weapons;

Commend the International Monitoring Committee for the successful performance of its task;

Commend the Central African people for the courage, wisdom and patriotism displayed throughout this crisis;

Undertake to pursue our efforts to restore and strengthen peace in the Central African Republic by maintaining the International Monitoring Committee and by helping to set up as promptly as possible the inter-African force to monitor security and peace.

Thank the United Nations for the assistance provided through the United Nations Development Programme to the International Monitoring Committee and invite it to continue such assistance until a lasting peace returns to the Central African Republic.

Done at Bangui, on 25 January 1997.

Signatories

For the delegation of heads of African States:
(Signed) His Excellency El Hadj Omar BONGO

For the Central African Republic:
(Signed) His Excellency Mr. Félix-Ange PATASSE

For the French Republic:
(Signed) His Excellency Mr. Jean-Marc SIMON
Ambassador and Senior Representative

Appendix IV

Declaration on the end of the rebellious action

Bearing in mind that the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of France and Africa, held at Ouagadougou from 4 to 6 December 1996, decided to send to Bangui a mediation mission consisting of Their Excellencies El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon, Mr. Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, Mr. Idriss Deby of Chad and Mr. Alpha-Oumar Konaré of Mali;

Bearing in mind that, in the wake of this mission, the International Monitoring Committee was established to implement the measures contained in the final communiqué of 8 December 1996 and to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the Central African crisis, and noting the encouraging results achieved;

Bearing in mind the address of the President of the Republic on 31 December 1996 announcing a number of measures to relax tension and issuing an appeal to rally the nation;

Concerned about strengthening the democratic process and the rule of law and about ensuring respect for human rights, safeguarding Central African democratic gains and preserving peace and national unity;

Taking into account the recommendations adopted by the General Meeting on National Defence on 9 September 1996 in Bangui;

Taking into account the general report and recommendations adopted by the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue on 18 January 1997 in Bangui;

Taking into account the Declaration prior to the agreement to end the rebellion adopted on 24 January 1997 in Bangui;

Determined, in the best interests of the Central African nation and the African continent, to employ dialogue and concerted efforts as the means to avert any return to armed confrontation;

We declare as follows:

1. We take note of the conclusions of the work of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue, meeting from 11 to 18 January 1997 in Bangui, and we undertake to respect the provisions that concern us.

2. Pending the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue, the purpose of which is to strengthen the current democratic process in our country, we affirm that the rebellious action triggered on 15 November 1996 is ended as from today.

3. We request a halt to all forms of constraint on collective and individual freedoms, including searches of persons and of premises and arrests.

4. We request the release of all persons apprehended in the course of the rebellious action.

5. We request that a monument to the memory of civilian and military victims of the three rebellions be built in Bangui.

6. We request that the International Monitoring Committee be maintained in order to ensure full compliance with the recommendations resulting from the work of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue and the Declaration prior to the agreement to end the rebellion adopted on 24 January 1997 in Bangui.

7. We request all the parties to settle all future differences and disagreements by some means other than the use of weapons.

8. We urge the public authorities to take into account the safeguards enumerated in the Declaration prior to the agreement to end the rebellion.

The present Declaration is being drawn up with the International Monitoring Committee as witness, under the auspices of His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, head of the delegation of heads of State designated by the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of France and Africa.

Done at Bangui, on 25 January 1997.

For the International Monitoring Committee:

(Signed) Amadou Toumani TOURE
Chairman

For the Officers:

(Signed) Anicet SAULET
Captain

Appendix V

Preliminary Agreement on a National Reconciliation Pact

We, the signatories to this Agreement,

- Political parties:[a] ADP, CN, ELAN, FC, FPP, GILA-MND, MDD, MDI/PS, MDREC, MESAN, MESAN-BOC, MLPC, MNR, MSCA, PARELI, PCD, PLD, PRC, PSD, RDC, UDR-FK, UDRP, UNDD, UPDES and UPR;

- Trade unions: CCTC, CNTC, CSTC, OSLP and USTC;

- Civil society,

Meeting in Bangui from 11 to 18 January 1997 at the seat of the National Assembly, in the context of the work of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue, under the auspices of the International Monitoring Committee chaired by His Excellency General Amadou Toumani Touré,

Considering that the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of France and Africa, held in Ouagadougou from 4 to 6 December 1996, decided to send a mediation mission to Bangui composed of Their Excellencies El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon, Mr. Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, Mr. Idriss Deby of Chad and Mr. Alpha-Oumar Konaré of Mali,

Considering the establishment, following this mission, of the International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the measures contained in the final communiqué of 8 December 1996 and to help find a peaceful and lasting solution to the Central African crisis, and in view of the positive results achieved,

Considering the address by the President of the Republic on 31 December 1996 announcing a series of de-escalation measures and calling for a national reawakening,

Considering the worsening of socio-political tensions, which are likely to threaten national unity,

Determined, in the higher interest of the Central African nation and of the African continent, to prevent, through dialogue and consensus-building, any return to armed confrontation,

Desirous of reinforcing the democratic process and the rule of law, of ensuring respect for human rights, of safeguarding the achievements of Central African democracy and of preserving peace and national unity,

In view of the general report and recommendations of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue, adopted in Bangui on 18 January 1997,

Have solemnly agreed as follows:

Article 1

We, the signatories to this Agreement, have resolved to respect constitutional legality and to safeguard the democratic process threatened by the grave socio-economic and political crisis and the disastrous consequences of various rebellions.

Article 2

We approve all the provisions of the conclusions stemming from the work of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue, and we undertake to enforce them.

Consequently, we call on the government authorities to approve them and put them into practice in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Article 3

We request that the International Monitoring Committee be retained so as to ensure strict respect for the recommendations of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue.

In the case of non-compliance by one of the parties to this Agreement, any party having a complaint may resort to the arbitration of the International Monitoring Committee.

Article 4

We undertake to participate fully in the meetings of the National Reconciliation Conference to be organized.

Article 5

We support all negotiations and are willing to participate in them to help find a peaceful and lasting solution to all the problems stemming from the Central African crisis.

We undertake to settle, or to help settle through dialogue and consensus-building, all disputes that may arise.

Article 6

We reaffirm our attachment to the implementation of the Political Agreement Protocol, of the conclusions of the General meeting on National Defence and of the Minimum Standards Programme.

Article 7

The general report on the work of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue and the report of the Political and Institutional Commission, the Security and Social Commission and the National Reconciliation and Reparation Commission are attached to this Agreement as enforceable clauses.

DONE at Bangui on 18 January 1997.

(Signed)

Political parties:[a]

ADP	CN	ELAN
FC	FPP	GILA-MND
MDD	MDI/PS	MDREC
MESAN	MESAN/B	MLPC
MNR	MSCA	PARELI
PCD	PLD	PRC
PSD	RDC	UDR/FK
UDRP	UNDD	UPDES
UPR		

Trade unions:

CCTC	CNTC	CSTC
OSLP	USTC	

Civil society:

(a) Religious denominations:

AEEC	CECA	CICA

(b) Human rights, justice and democracy:

ACAT	AFJC	GERDES
LCDH	MDDH	OCDH

(c) National organizations:

JEUNESSE OFCA

(d) Occupational organizations:

UNPC

Notes

[a] Complete names of political parties, trade unions and members of civil society signatories to this Agreement:

ACAT	Association Centrafricaine de Lutte contre la Torture et l'Abolition de la Peina de Mort
ADP	Alliance pour la Démocratie et le Progrès
AEEC	Association des Eglises Evangéliques Centrafricaines
AFJC	Association des Femmes juristes de Centrafrique
CCTC	Confédération Chrétienne des Travailleurs Centrafricains
CECA	Conférence Episcopale Centrafricaine
CICA	Communauté Islamique Centrafricaine
CN	Convention Nationale
CNTC	Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs Centrafricains
CSTC	Confédération Syndicale des Travailleurs Centrafricains
ELAN	Effort Libéral en Afrique Noire
FC	Forum Civique
FPP	Front Patriotique pour le Progès
GERDDES	Groupement d'Etudes et de Recherches pour la Démocratie et le Développement Economique et Social
GILA/MND	GILA-Mouvement National pour la Démocratie
JEUNESSE	Comité Ad Hoc de la Jeunesse
LCDH	Ligue Centrafricaine des Droits de l'Homme
MDD	Mouvement pour la Démocratie et le Développement

MDDH	Mouvement pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme
MDI/PS	Mouvement pour la Démocratie, l'Indépendance et le Progrès Social
MDREC	Mouvement pour la Démocratie en République Centrafricaine
MESAN	Mouvement d'Evolution Sociale de l'Afrique Noire
MESAN/B	Mouvement d'Evolution Sociale de l'Afrique Noire/Barthélémy Boganda
MLPC	Mouvement de Libération du Peuple Centrafricain
MNR	Mouvement de National pour le Renouveau
MSCA	Mouvement Socialiste Centrafricain
OCDH	Observatoire Centrafricain des Droits de l'Homme
OFCA .	Organisation des Femmes Centrafricaines
OSLP	Organisation des Syndicats Libres des Secteurs Public, Para-Public et Privé
PARELI	Parti Républicain Libéral
UNPC	Union Nationale du Patronat Centrafricain
PCD	Parti Chrétien Démocrate
PLD	Parti Libéral Democrate
PRC	Parti Républicain Centrafricain
PSD	Parti Social Démocrate
RDC	Rassemblement du Peuple Centrafricain
UND/FK	Union Démocratie Républicaine/Fini Kodro
UDRP	Union pour la Démocratie et le Renouveau Panafricain
UNDD	Union Nationale pour la Défense de la Démocratie
UPDES	Union du Peuple pour le Développement Economique et Social
UPR	Union pour la République
USTC	Union Syndicale des Travailleurs de Centrafrique

Appendix VI

General report of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue

From 11 to 16 January 1997 in Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, a meeting was held of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue, a body set up by the International Monitoring Committee to find solutions to the crisis in that country, with the logistical and technical support of the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangui.

Attending the meeting were representatives of political parties and civil society, dynamic forces of the Central African Republic, under the chairmanship of His Excellency General Amadou Toumani Touré, former head of State of Mali and Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee. The opening meeting of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue took place at the seat of the Central African National Assembly.

In his opening address, General Touré said that three rebellions in eight months was not acceptable. He called on all parties to come to their senses. Accordingly, after a number of consultations, he had decided to initiate two levels of dialogue and consensus-building to examine the problems thoroughly in order to find lasting solutions to the crisis rocking the country.

The first level of dialogue and consensus-building would function among the rebel youth of the Central African Armed Forces, and the second among the political parties, civil society and resource persons. He hoped that through frank, calm discussions, especially on the basis of mutual good faith, understanding and respect, the dynamic forces of the Central African nation would, on the one hand, help implement the measures announced by the head of State, His Excellency Ange-Félix Patasse, in his New Year's message to the nation on 31 December 1996 and, on the other hand, take stock of the old and/or new measures proposed; lastly, he hoped that they would follow the progress of the parallel negotiations being held between the International Monitoring Committee and the rebel youth, and take into account their results.

At the request of several members, the Committee decided, before beginning its work, to issue a declaration in which the participants undertook to work together to reach conclusions which would restore calm and hope to the Central African people and requested all the parties involved in the crisis to avoid all actions or words that might disturb the peaceful pursuit of their work.

The participants on the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue then decided to continue their work in three commissions: the Political and Institutional Commission, the Security and Social Commission and the National Reconciliation and Reparation Commission.

Each commission was chaired by a member of the International Monitoring Committee, each assisted by two or three rapporteurs appointed by each Commission.

The General Rapporteur, Chairman of the Review Committee and representative of the Study and Research Group on the Democratic, Economic and Social Development of Africa (GERDDES-Africa), was appointed by the International Monitoring Committee.

Upon completion of their work, the participants drew up a list of measures whose implementation, they trusted, would allow the Central African Republic to restore peace definitively so that it could finally pursue sustainable human development for the greater benefit of its people.

These measures, as discussed below, include political and institutional measures, social and security measures and national reconciliation measures.

I. POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

1. With regard to the address by the head of State on 31 December 1996, the participants welcomed the announcement of a voting timetable, but they felt there was first a need to revise the electoral code to take into account the municipal elections. It was recommended that an independent, joint electoral commission should be set up whose function it would be to specify the timetable, taking into account the availability of funding and the level of security prevailing in the country.

2. The formation of a real government of national union, expanded to include all the political parties and civil society, was specified as a precondition. The criteria to be used to choose its members would be competence, integrity and geopolitical considerations.

3. Most participants agreed that a pension should be granted to former heads of State. Nonetheless, some of the representatives of civil society, i.e., some trade unions, expressed reservations, pointing out that if a pension was granted to former heads of State, it would also be necessary to take care of the population in general.

4. Concerning the suspension of the judicial enforcement of the parliamentary audit, the participants asked that it simply be abandoned for purposes of promoting peace. However, some of the representatives of civil society expressed reservations, noting that this practice was likely to introduce the idea of impunity into Central African customs, to encourage poor management of government affairs and financial resources and to diminish accountability, an important element of good governance.

5. The establishment of a high-level council on broadcasting is being awaited impatiently. However, so as not to "put the cart before the horse", the participants proposed that a draft law on a press code should first be submitted to the National Assembly.

6. The participants felt that the proposed amnesty measure was indispensable and urgent.

The participants hoped it would be general but limited to events and acts relating to the third rebellion.

7. As for the General Meeting on the National Defence, the participants on the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue recommended that the acts promulgated by it should be enforced. The same applied to the conclusions of the General Meeting on Youth, which had not yet been implemented.

8. The discussions showed that there was an urgent need to revise the provisions of the code of penal procedure, providing a control mechanism for periods of preventive detention. Human and material resources should also be increased to improve the operation of the judicial system.

9. A long debate was held on the failure to respect procedures for acceding to various posts at the University of Bangui, which violated the standards of the universities members of the African and Malagasy Council on Higher Education (CAMES). The participants recommended that the government authorities should respect the autonomy of this institution. They also stressed the criteria of competence, integrity and experience for appointments to civil service posts.

10. The participants felt that there were so many departments under the Presidency of the Republic that they overlapped with the ministries and often presented a barrier between the head of State and his people. They therefore suggested that these departments should be considerably cut back, leaving only the essential services and reducing at the same time the costs of operating this Government institution.

11. One of the focal points of the debates was the revision of certain articles of the Constitution. The participants recommended a re-reading of the Basic Law.

12. The crucial problem on which the participants focused was the failure to enforce legal and regulatory texts and consensual acts. They strongly recommended the effective enforcement of these texts, including the Political Agreement Protocol and soon the Minimum Standards Programme. The participants also recommended that the authorities should take into account the conclusions of the work of the Committee on Consensus-building and Dialogue.

13. The participants decided to make an appeal for respect for the Constitution, for constitutional legality, for the institutions, laws and regulations of the Republic and for democratic principles and human rights.

II. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION MEASURES

14. National reconciliation requires first taking into account the harm that has been suffered by all sides. The participants therefor advocated the organization of an appropriate framework for a thorough evaluation of the damage caused by the various crises, and for just compensation for the victims.

15. In order to lay the groundwork for a lasting peace, the participants recommended holding a National Reconciliation Conference. However, the time

periods announced by the head of State seemed too short. The participants therefore suggested that those periods should be adjusted to allow time for adequate preparation.

To that end, the participants hoped that such a forum would be preceded by meetings at the prefectural level, which would send delegations and their proposals to the National Reconciliation Conference so as to involve all segments of the population.

The National Reconciliation Conference would conclude with a solemn commitment to peace by all participants.

16. For national reconciliation to last, the participants felt it was essential to establish a system of government management in the Central African Republic based on the principles of good governance, in particular skilful management of human and financial resources, transparency, the banning of impunity, the establishment of accountability and respect for human rights, so that a true culture of peace and democracy could take root in the country.

17. The participants suggested that the rebel soldiers in the Central African Armed Forces should be reintegrated with honour and dignity.

III. SOCIAL AND SECURITY MEASURES

18. Despite appeals to those connected with government institutions to return to their work and courses, the administrative offices and educational establishments are nearly empty. It is urgent to create conditions of confidence and security in order to remedy this situation.

The participants also recommended the payment of back salaries, pensions and scholarships and the revision of the 1996-1997 school calendar.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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LETTER DATED 18 JULY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that at 4.30 a.m. on Sunday, 6 July 1997, an armed Iraqi group on the Iraqi side of the Kuwait-Iraq border opened heavy fire on Kuwaiti border policemen stationed on the tower of oil well No. 5 inside Kuwaiti territory, and on persons working for the Kuwait Oil Company. UNIKOM was informed of this incident at the time.

Such repeated acts on the part of the Iraqi regime, which are intended to undermine the security and peace of Kuwait's borders, demonstrate yet again that this regime does not have peaceful intentions, and make it necessary that you should intervene in order to put pressure on the Iraqi Government to desist from such acts, which threaten the security and peace of the region, and to ensure that it bears complete responsibility for the results of these acts.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sulaiman AL-SAEID
Chargé d'affaires a.i.